

CHEHALIS RIVER BASIN

FLOOD AUTHORITY

Flood Authority Update

June 2009

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority is an organization of local and Tribal governments in the Chehalis River Basin. The goal of the Authority is to provide a forum so these jurisdictions can work together to reduce flood damage in the Chehalis River Basin.

Recent Actions

Recommended Actions At their May 21st work session, the Flood Authority began to discuss their approach and decision-making process for recommended actions. The Authority will be considering three categories of projects:

- major regional capital projects, such as the Twin Cities levee project and upstream storage proposal
- small localized capital projects that will provide relief from flood damage
- nonstructural programmatic actions, including a land use regulation program and the development of a basin-wide early warning system

Land Use Regulatory Program Also at the May 21st work session, the Authority discussed approaches to considering land use regulations throughout the basin. The Authority's Board Advisory Committee will work with local jurisdiction staff to create an inventory of land use regulations in the basin and evaluate possible regulatory approaches that Authority member jurisdictions may want to adopt.

Officer Elections The Flood Authority held officer elections at the May 21st business meeting. Commissioner Ron Averill of Lewis County was reelected as Chair. Commissioner Terry Willis of Grays Harbor County was elected as Vice-Chair.

Recent Presentations

- At the May 21st Authority work session, Steve Harvey of the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments presented highlights from the Lewis County Flood Disaster Strategy Report, which addresses the economic recovery from the December 2007 flood.
- ESA Adolfson, the Authority's consultants, presented a scope of work for a proposed amendment to their contract that would allow them to continue to provide facilitation, coordination, staff support, and technical services to the Flood Authority for July 2009 – June 2010.

Meeting notes can be found on the Authority's website

(<http://lewiscountywa.gov/communitydevelopment/chehalis-river-basin-flood-authority>).

Upcoming Meetings

Authority work session on June 18th at 9:00 AM at the Veteran's Memorial Museum in Chehalis. Agenda:

- A discussion about the check-in conversations Linda Hoffman, the Flood Authority's facilitator, conducted with Authority members in May
- Review, discussion, and feedback about possible local capital projects involving the Adna levee
- Discussion of a proposed Request for Qualifications for the early warning system
- A presentation on the mitigation alternatives available to the Flood Authority
- A discussion on selecting and prioritizing recommended actions

Authority business meeting on June 18th at 1:30 PM at the Lewis County Historic Courthouse in Chehalis. Agenda:

- Discussion and action on:
 - a scope of services and contract for Earth Economics to conduct an economic analysis of ecosystem services throughout the basin
 - the proposed amendment to ESA Adolfson's contract to provide services for July 2009 – June 2010
 - the proposed RFQ to undertake an early warning system
 - authorization of a work group to begin work on regulatory approaches to flood damage reduction
- Clarification of respective roles of the Flood Authority and the Chehalis Basin Partnership
- Discussion on plans and approaches for developing a Flood Control District proposal.

Board Advisory Committee meeting dates: June 5th and June 19th.

For more information, contact

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The Authority's web site:
<http://lewiscountywa.gov/communitydevelopment/chehalis-river-basin-flood-authority>

Members of the Flood Authority

Grays Harbor County
Lewis County
Thurston County
The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis
Aberdeen
Bucoda
Centralia
Chehalis
Montesano
Oakville
Pe Ell